WRL News

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The End of an Era
WRL News Laid To Rest After 39 Years

By Ed Hedemann

Two weeks after the end of World War II, and only a month after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were flattened by atom bombs, *WRL News* published its first issue.

The September 13, 1945, issued did, of course, deal with atomic weapons and the end of the War, but until the mid-Fifties *WRL News* was primarily a newsletter about WRL Executive Committee meetings, dinners, conferences, obituaries, speaking trips, financial statements, as well as scattered reports on demonstrations and other news. In addition, the final issue of every year from 1945 to 1976 printed a list of conscientious objectors ("Prisoners for Peace") imprisoned in the United States, and sometimes abroad. Members were encouraged to send Christmas (later, "holiday") cards to them.

During the first eight years or so, the news was about amnesty for World War II resisters, peacetime conscription (which began in 1948), protests at the UN, poster walks and other demonstrations, and the Korean War.

In 1953, this little two-page newsletter was typeset for the first time and began carrying photographs regularly. In addition, opinion and analysis articles were appearing more frequently. For the rest of the decade, the dominant issues covered by the *News* were the Civil Rights movement and anti-nuclear weapons protests (e.g., Civil Defense and atmospheric testing). Furthermore, the articles had a strong international flavor—reports about opposition to nuclear tests in the Sahara and the Pacific; reports from Tanzania, Europe, and India; the Berlin blockade, the Cuban missile crisis, Japan, South Korea, etc.

In 1960, *WRL News* went to a four-page format on a regular basis. Though international, civil rights, and disarmament issues still dominated, more coverage was being given to demonstrations. From 1960 to 1984, the *News* carried a forum on the elections for five out of the seven Presidential election years. Reflecting diversity as well as division among WRL members, these forums centered not so much on *who* to vote for but on *whether* to vote for the inevitable lesser of two evils.

Then for twelve years—1963-1975—the Vietnam War became the main news item. Coverage included reports of marches; draft card burnings; Yellow Submarine launchings; civil disobedience at the Pentagon, induction centers, corporate headquarters, and in the streets of Washington, DC; draft and tax resistance. In 1967, as the War was escalating and WRL's membership growing, the *News* went to six pages. The May/June 1969 *News* was an emergency issue because the WRL office had been wrecked and the mailing list stolen. In 1970 a regular column on local organizing was added. By 1973 as the War was winding down, amnesty once again was in the *News*.

Expanding finally to an eight-page format in 1976, the most prominent topics covered by the *News* were the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice (1976), nuclear power (1979-80) and nuclear weapons (1977-84), the draft (1979-80), El Salvador (1981), disarmament and Eruomissiles (1982-83), Central America (1983-84). In the Eighties, women's anti-militarist actions and issues became more prominent in the *News*, as did war tax resistance (though articles on war tax resistance appeared from time to time since 1955).

This account would not be complete without mentioning that the first editor and driving force behind *WRL-News* was Jim Peck, who worked on the *News* from 1945-1979. Though the editorial content for the past ten years or more has been determined by the WRL Steering Committee, Susan Pines has done the basic editing and layout work since 1980.

WRL's new publication, *The Nonviolent Activist*, will continue to carry the reports of WRL events and activities. But it will also put more emphasis on news and analysis, and will print letters among other features. The first issue of this monthly is expected to be November. If *The Nonviolent Activist* lasts as long as WRL News has—39 years—it will make it to the year 2023: the 100 anniversary of the founding of the War Resisters League.

Ed Hedemann is a WRL national staff-person.

JRL NEWS

Developments of special interest to members and friends of the War Resisters League. Issued at 5 Beekman Street, New York 7,N.Y. Sept.13,1945.

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THE ATOM was the subject of the main discussion at our August executive committee meeting. The bomb and the sudden ending of the war found the committee determined "with renewed energy" to "pursue its objective of the abolition of war." Recognizing the primary duty of arousing the conscience of mankind in opposition to war, making full use of the public interest in the new bomb and the new possibilities of science, the committee voted that the League "will do its utmost toward the rousing of the will of the peoples of the ea to dedicate themselves to human well-being w the ardor with which they have heretofore be dedicated to national well-being, working toward the day of Victory over War — V-W Da

INTERNATIONAL WRI conferences will constitu our League's major job for Ja uary and February. We look forward to the active cooperation in the USA of the Fello ship of Reconciliation, the other affiliat of the WRI. May we count on you to be one our key conference organizers if there is group already set up in your area ? If so shall send you the 19 page agenda of the

WRL NEWS

BAYARD RUSTIN / RALPH DI GIA / JIM PECK, Editor } Co-Secretaries

No. 73 | JULY-AUGUST, 1955

28 ARRESTED IN CIVIL DEFENSE DEMONSTRATION

FUNDS NEEDED FOR CIVIL DEFENSE CASE

Money is needed urgently for legal defense of the 28 arrested during the June 15 civil defense drill. Their challenge of the New York State civil defense act, under which they can be sentenced as much as a year in

By JIM PECK

A non-violent protest action during the June 15 nation-wide civil defense drill ended with the arrest of all 28 participants.

Our plan had been to walk across City Hall park during the alert—after people had

WRL Organizers Program

By Cynthia Sharpe

Participants in WRL Organizer's Program stopped to pose for this after speaking engagement on Wall Street. Photo by Grace Hedemann.

What do a retired GE executive, West German conscientious objector, pacifist prolifer for survival and captain of the Clearwater sloop have in common. We were four of the 12 activists who participated in the 1984 Training for Organizers sponsored by War Resisters League. Activists came from Oakland (CA), Concord (NH), Washington, D.C., Philadelphia (PA), Chapel Hill (NC), Montclair (NJ), Poughkeepsie (NY) and West Hempstead (NY). We varied in age from 66 to 17.

Although our backgrounds were diverse, we shared the concerns of an increasingly militarized society and the desire to become stronger organizers to better help turn back this tide.

The rural setting of the Hudson Guild Farm in rolling green hills filled with all kinds of wildlife provided a necessary balance to the extensive cranial engagement. With the exception of the mosquitoes (fierce little guys with racing stripes on their bodies) and one day of rain, the setting was ideal for embarking on an intensive program of political theory, organizing skills development and informational workshops. Between the workshop sessions (three 2½ hour sessions per day) we could swim in nearby ponds, jog, take walks or "vege out" by laying in bed, chatting in the living room, or staring into space.

Orchard House, the dwelling that provided housing, a meeting place and kitchen suitable for preparing snacks was the last building on the road and set away from the other people, mostly Senior Citizens, vacationing at the Farm. We shared meals with everyone at the large house's dining room. Many of the Farm's guests had strong feelings one way or the other about our presence.

One of us, doing laundry in the main house basement, was asked in an unfriendly manner if she was an American. The conversation went downhill from there. On the other hand, a local, independent peace group inquired about a possible presentation. A WWII conscientious objector fed some of us cakes and crackers.

Overall, we felt the training was a positive experience. The brochure told us not to expect a vacation and true enough, it was no vacation. An unbelievable amount of information and ideas were crammed into this nine day period—from the ins and outs of war tax resistance to the connections between feminism and nonviolence. The workshop facilitators provoked discussion and often dissension among the participants. Vibrant dialogues on the facets of anarchism, feminism, nonviolence rang throughout the training session. ("Don't you think that socialism and anarchism can merge and form something new?" "Are all women's actions necessarily separatist?")

We did, however, have difficulties. Our training session was reflective of the problems people in the world face in trying to get along. Establishing the trust necessary to challenge and grow from each other was hard enough without the added burden of constantly dealing with someone who was disruptive.

Functioning as a group was impossible with the continued participation of one person and around day five of the training we asked him to leave. We only did so after repeated individual and group attempts to indicate to him that his behavior was unacceptable. After he was told his presence was no longer desired, the group left for a day of workshops in New York City. Upon our return we were amazed to find him still there. We confronted him to no avail (he refused to leave) and then met as a group. After discussion as to what to do, with some of us stating we'd leave if he didn't, we called it a night.

The next morning common sense took over. Using a nonviolent method, we agreed that he could stay but that we would remove ourselves from interaction with him. We moved our meeting places, ate meals separately, and largely ignored the presence of this disrupting individual. It worked. The group grew closer, discussions stayed on track and we were able to develop strategies on how to deal with (gasp!!) the Wall Street speaking segment of the training.

Speaking on Wall Street, the "graduation" component of the program, was a great success. Focusing on New York Harbor becoming the homeport for seven warships carrying over 500 cruise missiles, we all went through the ceremonies with honors.

There was unanimous agreement at the evaluation session that the program should be offered again. We felt strengthened by the experience and revitalized to carry on work at home.

Cynthia Sharpe is active with the WRL/West Working Committee and Feminism and Nonviolence Task Force and is a proud graduate of the 1984 WRL Training Program.

WANTED: MUSTE MEMORABILIA

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute will be commemorating the hundredth anniversary of A.J.'s birth in 1985 by producing special materials and holding special events. For these, the Institute would appreciate receiving photographs of A.J., copies of his correspondence, or other memorabilia you would like to contribute. They can be sent to the Institute at 339 Lafayette Street, NY NY 10012, and will be received with great thanks.

Pilgrimage to Pantex—1984

Bicycling to Where the End of the World Begins

By Bob Henschen

A bicycle pilgrimage to the final assembly point of all US nuclear warheads—not the likeliest scenario for a disarmament action. Especially not in the scorching heat of July in the Texas panhandle. But the Pilgrimage to Pantex proved to be (amazingly) effective in raising the nuclear issue in a striking and positive way, and in laying the foundation for a strengthened peace movement in our region.

The project grew out of the formation in 1982 of the Red River Peace Network as a coalition of religious and conscience-based peace groups in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. The primary reason for its organization was to take regional responsibility for the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Assembly Plant, the central point in US nuclear weapons production, 19 miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas.

Early projects in 1983 included investigating the possibility of purchasing a piece of property near the plant for a permanent peace community. This plan was shelved, but in November of '83 the Network agreed on the idea of a bicycle pilgrimage from as many cities as possible in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico to converge on the plant for a three-day peace vigil, August 4-6, 1984. Don Gardner and Hib Sabin of Austin agreed to be regional co-coordinators and I volunteered to organize the Houston pilgrimage group.

The result some nine months later was eight bicycle and car caravans traveling different routes across the region, handing out leaflets, doing programs, staying in churches and homes, and getting tremendous media coverage for this unlikely pilgrimage for peace.

Our trip of 738 miles, the longest of the routes, took 14 days (and an untold quantity of water and granola bars), and our eleven bikers and five support car people shared an unforgettable experience on the road. The hills of central Texas and the heat were rough on our amateur bikers, but the rewards were great. The reactions of the people in small towns were overwhelmingly positive and the groups who hosted us each night expressed great appreciation for the information and energy we brought them.

The choice of bicycles turned out to be a stroke of genius. We felt our willingness to pedal through the summer heat for our cause won us the respect and support of even conservative folks. The media loved the bicycles too. We were covered by practically every newspaper we came near, often on the front page (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:* "N-Protesters 'Well-Received,'") and television stations covered us so well that people already knew who we were when we arrived in their town. In Lubbock, the local station decided to run a week-long series on the nuclear issue because of the pilgrimage.

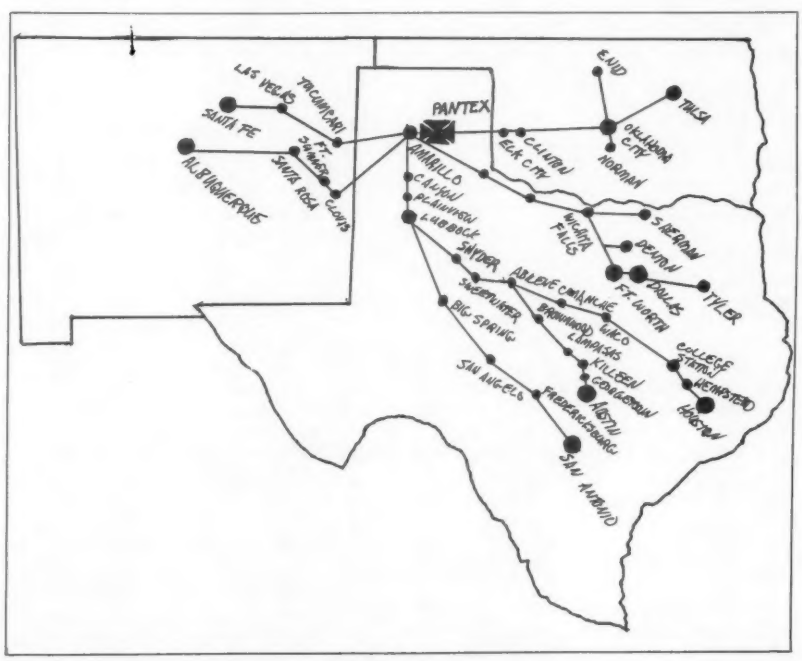
The programs we did also made an important contribution. We gave peace people in churches and communities something to organize around. In Eastland, Texas, the informal program and discussion we had with eight local folks at the home of a minister was the first time the issue had ever been discussed in their town. In Waco, we did a program for seventy people at a Baptist church and have been hearing since what a positive effect that evening had on this generally conservative congregation. In Tulia we were the guests of the Chamber of Commerce and were taken out to dinner by a prominent rancher who is leading the fight to prevent a high level nuclear waste dump from being sited in his county. Our discussion with this ostensibly pro-weapons Texan was so productive that, with continued correspondence, we hope to have another Rancher for Peace in the panhandle!

We intend to do follow-up correspondence with all our new contacts and hope to involve these folks in area-wide actions in the future. This type of networking and energizing is an important benefit of the pilgrimage approach to a regional action.

We also feel we laid a good foundation for future action at the Pantex plant. This year the focus was on "getting there," on raising the issue in a creative way, and on having a peace witness at the plant that would leave a positive impression on the workers, the media and the north Texas community. No civil disobedience was planned by agreement of the participating groups. Arrangements with the local sheriff permitted us to camp in a long line of tents between the plant fence and the farm road leading to the front gate for three days. We were able to communicate with workers at the three daily shift changes with signs, banners and eventually with leaflets as they became more comfortable with our presence and our message—not that they were the guilty ones, but that nuclear war is a problem we all have to take responsibility for.

The camp itself consisted of about two hundred folks and three hundred attended the interfaith worship service at the gates on August 6 with Bishop Matthiesen of Amarillo. The Bishop has advocated that the workers at Pantex consider resigning for reasons of conscience. Our group presented him with $1700 which we had raised as a donation to the fund he set up to aid workers who quit their jobs. We felt this kind of positive contribution was another essential part of the message we wanted to communicate.

continued on page 8



Map of bicycle routes for the Pantex Pilgramage.

Bob Henschen is active with the Houston local of the War Resisters League.

The Expanding WRL Network:
New Regional Office Opens in New England

By Joanne Sheehan and Rick Gaumer

New England, six states with a history that includes the Boston Tea Party, a strong Abolitionist movement, the first National Woman's Rights Convention, the Lawrence Strike; a home to people such as Henry David Thoreau, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Alice Paul, A. J. Muste, Sacco and Vanzetti. More recently, New England was the birthplace of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Movement. But New England was not a War Resisters League Region! That was changed on July 1st of this year.

Establishing a New England War Resisters League is a natural extension of the work we, Joanne Sheehan and Rick Gaumer, have done over the years. We each began our work for peace while in college in the late sixties. We met in 1972 at 339 Lafayette Street while Joanne was on the Catholic Peace Fellowship staff and Rick was looking for a peace group to work with. Rick joined the CPF staff. Joanne was elected to the WRL Executive Committee in 1973. In 1975 Catholic Peace Fellowship was the first group to endorse WRL's proposal for a Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice. We offered office space to the Walk staff and Joanne joined the staff. Our ties to WRL grew stronger. After the Walk was completed, we moved to New England with others from our New York City community to staff the Community for Nonviolent Action [CNVA] Farm in Voluntown, Connecticut. There we were active in many local and regional projects and campaigns on issues such as disarmament, nuclear power, tax resistance, feminism and nonviolence.

A major focus of our work while at Community for Nonviolent Action was on the Trident submarine which is built in nearby Groton. CNVA came to Southeastern Connecticut in 1960 to organize Polaris Action, a direct action campaign opposed to the building of the first nuclear submarines which carried strategic weapons. Carrying on that tradition with our opposition to Trident, we faced the same dilemma. While opposition to Trident had to occur where it was being built, that is also where the most support for the weapon exists. General Dynamics/Electric Boat, sole builders of Trident submarines, employs 24,000 people and Groton, home of the largest Sub Base in the West, is known as "the submarine capitol of the world." An emphasis on economic conversion is important, and how it can be coupled with direct action was a debated issue.

We left CNVA in May of 1980 hoping to make New England and specifically Southeastern Connecticut home for ourselves and our growing family. Annie who is nearly six now, was born at CNVA and named after Annie McVey Upshure, an activist for many years who lived with us at CNVA in her 90th year. Patrick was born three years later on the eve of the second Women's Pentagon Action.

Soon after leaving CNVA a group of us bought an abandoned 10 room house in Norwich with the help of many friends and supporters. It soon became the Dorothy Day Community, with room to house four adults, several children and the new WRL local office. Since coming to Connecticut we have been supporting ourselves by sharing a school bus driving job.

The creation of a New England WRL has been of interest to us for many years. This year it became time to make it a reality. Although New England has many peace groups and a strong American Friends Service Committee, much of the focus of the peace movement is on the Freeze. On issues such as unilateral initiatives towards disarmament, draft resistance, non-intervention, feminism and nonviolence, there is a void of regional organizing.

With a staff consisting of the two of us, a working committee of 15, people working on specific issues, and eventually new local WRL groups, our dreams are big. Building a base is important during this first year. We need to reach out to the nearly 3,000 WRL members who live in New England, people we have worked with over the years, and others. A regional newsletter will increase contact, and we will travel around the region to meet with people, do workshops, and hopefully help with the birth of new locals. The National WRL is providing $15,000 as seed money for our first year, while we have a goal of raising $5,000 in donations this year. Other monies will come from grants, literature and calendar sales, special events and fundraisers.

A Nonviolence Trainers Network is a proposed project of WRL/NE. The primary objective of the network is to give support to nonviolence trainers to enable them to work on nonviolence education and training in local areas throughout New England. That support will come through trainers gatherings and mailings, skills workshops, training for new trainers, literature, a directory of trainers and their skills, and a resource library. Trainers will be available to help groups with facilitation and decision making skills, campaign development, conflict resolution, community building, empowerment, examining our own racism, etc. The most important foundation we can build is based on nonviolent philosophy and skills.

We will continue to oppose the Trident submarine and weapons system, but doing that through a regional WRL will add a new dimension to it. Trident has been primarily opposed where it is being built or based. Although there is national opposition to Euromissiles, MX, the B-1, Trident has escaped such opposition. Many who feel we need "some form of military defense" look towards Trident for that strategic defense. Among some pacifists, there is a belief that since we are against *all* weapons, we should not focus in on any *one*. However, we have come to believe that *only* pacifists will take a strong stand against Trident now.

In a region so heavily dependent on weapons production, both nuclear and conventional, conversion and social justice issues must be talked about in the same breath as disarmament. In the past year the local WRL in Norwich, which the regional office grew out of, has worked with other individuals and groups in establishing the Ministry With Defense Workers. The MDW has just begun a hot line for defense workers who are having questions about their role in the arms race and want to talk about it. We also both attended the International Economic Conversion Conference held in Boston in June and Rick is on the State-wide Conversion Task Force.

Other international connections will undoubtedly be made. Joanne is on the War Resisters International Council and was chosen to be one of the three Vice-Chairs of WRI at their Council meeting held in

continued on page 7

Nominations Solicited for Executive and National Committees

WRL members may nominate candidates for the Executive and National Committees.

This year there will be 8 openings for the Executive Committee and 6 for the National Committee. Only people in the New York City area should be nominated for the EC since they must be able to attend monthly meetings in this area. Members outside the New York City area may be nominated for the NC which meets twice a year. The person you nominate for the NC should come from your own area: West, Midwest, South or East.

Though any WRL member may submit a nomination, nominations by less than five members are subject to the approval of the National Committee as a prerequisite on the ballot. Please submit nominations to the National Office by the November 1 deadline.

WRL Organizing on the West Coast

Last June WRL national staff member Ed Hedemann took a brief trip west to visit WRL (and other) organizers. The photographs below reflect a part of that trip.

The WRL Western Regional Conference held in Santa Barbara, California, June 16, 1984, was attended by 50 people. The Conference, organized by WRL/West in cooperation with the Santa Barbara WRL, was the first such event since 1978.

Members of the Santa Barbara WRL obligingly paused between sessions of the Regional Conference to pose for this photograph...

A blocked off street on the University of Oregon campus (Eugene) was used to graphically display military spending in relation to other parts of the Federal Budget. With a scale of one inch for every $40 million, lines of different colors were drawn. The military line went 898 feet, or about 3 blocks. The project, brainchild of Leslie Brockelbank (pictured above), of Clergy and Laity concerned, took 20 people about 9 hours and $100 to complete. It has received excellent media coverage and has practically become a Eugene tourist attraction.

National Conference on Registration and the Draft

By Sylvia McGauley

For an event loaded with potential confrontations, the National Conference on Registration and the Draft, held in Berkeley July 14-15, went surprisingly smoothly. Weeks before the conference, problems began surfacing. To many, the name implied an insensitivity to intervention, GI, veteran, third world, and poverty draft issues. Even the initial graphic used in the promotional literature was controversial.

This was the first national draft conference since the 1981 Committee Against Registration and the Draft [CARD] conference in Detroit. At that time, the draft was the big movement issue, and everyone wanted a piece of the action. As a result, the Detroit conference was rife with power struggles. Although the conference reflected an important change in the anti-draft movement, it also proved to be devisive. Consequently, the 1984 conference was intended to be primarily informational, with room for strategy development and networking.

Held on the eve of the Democratic Convention in San Francisco, the National Conference on Registration and the Draft attracted about 275 people from all regions of the United States. It was sponsored by over 30 groups and organized by a coalition of representatives from the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors [CCCO], Parents and Friends Against the Draft, the War Resisters League, National Resistance Committee, and others.

Since draft registration was reinstituted in 1980, 16 public nonregistrants have been indicted. In addition, the Solomon amendments, preventing nonregistrants from receiving federal financial aide or Job Training and Partnership Act [JTPA] training, and the growth of the poverty draft and J/ROTC signify the increasing impact of militarism on youth in this country. The need to better address these issues, as well as make connections between registration for the draft and other forms of militarism was a theme woven throughout the conference.

Structurally, the conference offered a variety of workshops, talks, and panel discussions. Walter Collins, a Viet Nam War draft resister and civil rights activist from the South, gave the keynote address. Saturday afternoon, Andrea Carmen of the Draft Information Alliance, a network of third world draft organizations, Tony Gonzalez from La Raza draft Counseling Center in Fresno, and Paul Fujinaga of the Asian Viet Nam Veterans Organization, presented a panel discussion on third world perspectives on the poverty draft and registration. Gillam Kerley, the eighth person to be indicted for refusing to register for the draft, spoke eloquently about his experiences as a resister, and Kathy Gilberd of the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force gave a legal update on draft registration issues. Saturday evening, Jesse Colin Young, Russ Scheidler, (a Viet Nam veteran active in the Bay Area's Veterans Organized for Peace), and others provided free musical entertainment.

The following morning, Bill Yolton from the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors [NISBCO], Ed Hasbrouck, indicted nonregistrant, and David Collins from CCCO presented a panel discussion on conscientious resistance. Later, Peggy Tuxen gave a very moving closing speech about her experiences as a nurse in the Viet Nam War and her recent visit to Central America.

Sandwiched between the plenaries were three workshop periods including such topics as high school outreach, intervention and the draft, counterrecruitment, new approaches to anti-draft work, veterans and draft resistance, organizing in third world communities, feminism and the draft, resistance, the Solomon amendments, and many more. About half of the nineteen workshops covered issues other than just draft registration. Resource people for the workshops came from a braod cross section of organizations and different perspectives.

While not officially a part of the conference, Sunday afternoon was set aside for organizational representatives and others to discuss strategies for building the movement and ways of better working together. Prior to the meeting, a representative of the third world caucus, which had been meeting throughout the weekend, commented that the caucus participants felt that the original agenda was irrelevant. Due to a lack of interest, rather than anger, they chose not to participate in the meeting. Following that, the preliminary agenda was replaced by a three part one: communication, political action, and linkage of issues.

During the course of the afternoon, a subcommittee was established to work out plans for subsequent regional and national meetings. Another committee was set up to research computer networking. The political action discussion included talk of pressuring Mondale on the draft, discussing a date for decentralized anti-draft actions, and issuing a leaflet for Democratic Convention delegates in the name of the conference. Ultimately, most of these issues were relegated to subcommittees to work out the details. The discussion of linkage of issues was, unfortunately, slighted by lack of time.

Although neither the Sunday afternoon meeting nor the plenaries and workshops may have produced anything strikingly new, the conference did furnish an important opportunity for anti-draft and anti-militarist activists to get together. Hopefully, too, the conference has provided a springboard for further discussions and actions around certain crucial issues raised throughout the weekend, such as the poverty draft and racism, as well as the potential implementation of a draft or increase in prosecutions of nonregistrants.

Sylvia McGauley is on the staff of WRL/West.

Another Resister Indicted

On August 22 Andy Mager became the 17th person indicted for failure to register for the draft. Mager, an organizer for Upstate Resistance in Syracuse (New York) and a member of the WRL Draft/Counter-Recruitment Task Force, is scheduled to be arraigned August 29.

WRL KEY LIST

The War Resisters League maintains a special list of organizers to whom Key List mailings are sent once a month. These mailings include brief summaries of the latest information on program areas of concern to organizers (e.g., draft/counter-recruitment, feminism and nonviolence, disarmament, Central America, war tax resistance); the latest happenings in the WRL office; a calendar of movement events; new brochures; buttons or posters; and so forth.

If you think these mailings would be useful to your organizing efforts, send a contribution (these mailings cost us $10 to $20 a person each year)—if you can afford it—to Key List, WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012. Checks should be made out to War Resisters League.

WRL Statement of Purpose

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all causes of war.

I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip ___

Send to: War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012

New England Regional Office

continued from page 4

England this past July which she attended. Helping people to see their role as League members with regional, national and international perspectives and organizations is an important part of our job.

Although there is a New England War Tax Resistance Network, much needs to be done to encourage resistance of both phone and income taxes. Rick will continue to do tax resistance workshops and organizing, while working with the New England WTR Network.

At a recent Connecticut American Legion Convention, the director of the Selective Service System stated that Connecticut's young men are among the worst in the nation when it comes to complying with draft registration laws. Thomas Turnage said that Connecticut's compliance ranks 49th out of the Nation's 55 territories and states. We would like to think that is because WRL has passed out thousands of leaflets on draft registration in the past year! Even if that isn't the case, WRL will continue to leaflet (we received a grant to print 10,000 copies of our leaflet "Do You Feel A Draft?") at concerts that attract that age group.

Another important part of the work we have been doing and will continue to do centers on the connections between feminism and nonviolence. Joanne has done many talks and workshops on the connections over the years. She has worked with feminist groups around the state, and helped coordinate the Greenham Women's Tour last year. She is also working on the WRL sponsored conference for women and men on "Feminism in the Peace Movement." She has begun to contact nonviolent feminists around New England to be part of a feminism and nonviolence working group of WRL/NE. Feminism and its connection to nonviolence will also be an important issue for the Nonviolent Trainers Network, and is incorporated into all of the work of WRL.

This seems like an overwhelming amount of work to be done. We are hopeful. But this work cannot be done solely by the WRL staff working with a few others. It is the work of *all* of us. As members of the League we promise to *"strive nonviolently* for the removal of all the causes of war." We all must do what we can. For those of you in New England, we ask you to work with us, and to support us financially as best you can. We cannot do this work without money. And those donations made to WRL/NE must be over and above what you already give to WRL. (As we used to say at the Catholic Peace Fellowship, "You can't rob Peter to pay Paul.") Just as importantly, use us. Get together a group of your friends and invite us to talk about the League and our programs; participate in our projects; drop by our house and office when you are driving past Norwich (we're on the Connecticut Turnpike, just north of New London). We look forward to working with you.

Contact: WRL/New England
P.O. Box 1093
Norwich, CT 06360
(203) 889-5337

WRL Presents Special Citation to Myrtle Solomon, Chair of the War Resisters' International

Craig Simpson, Myrtle Solomon, Vicki Rovere display citation.

The WRL annual peace award, which this year went to Larry Gara (see July-August *WRL News*) is a national event. But Myrtle Solomon, Chair of War Resisters' International [WRI], has seemed for several years the logical candidate for the award and so this year, WRL, rather than taking on the burden of choosing from the whole world for the annual award, dealt with the matter by a special citation for Myrtle Solomon.

The presentation of the citation was formally made by WRL members who were present at the WRI Council meeting in England in July. The citation read: "On the occasion of its annual dinner, the War Resisters League presents this special citation to Myrtle Solomon, Chair of the War Resisters' International, for her continuing work in building a movement crossing all boundaries, setting free those oppressed by fears of war, by the realities of hunger, of repression. In this work she has been a special friend of youth, on whom the burden of resistance to military service falls so heavily."

Myrtle, on learning she was to receive the citation, phoned the following message which was read at the WRL dinner: "I was astonished, amazed, and honored when I received news that the WRL was giving me a citation. I hastened to verify the definition in my dictionary, which informed me it was a summons to appear in court—undaunted. It being a British dictionary, I took that to mean to appear before the Queen's own court, in order to receive this accolade from such a source as WRL whose standards are so high. I am both touched and grateful to you all and feel more noble than a nobel prize winner. It's the WRI that gave me a cloak of many spelndid colors onto which the citation truly rests. Now I really know that small is beautiful. Thank you all good friends who give so much towards peace and refuse to yield to the paths of war and violence."

Pantex Pilgrimage

continued from page 3

Workshops at the peace camp proved very valuable. Ex-CIA agent John Stockwell, who biked with the Austin group, led a standing room only workshop entitled "Politics and Paranoia." His revelations of the secret wars our government has fought over the years and his prediction of an all-out war in Central America by 1985 were well-covered by the Amarillo press and made for provacative discussions at every stop along Austin's pilgrimage route.

A White Train workshop included an overview of the tracking network by the Agape Community's Amarillo train watcher, Heddy Sawadsky (a train was) loading while we were there), and information from the Progressive's Sam Day about a project to begin tracking the "Chrome Trucks" which leave with shipments of war heads several times a week. Elana Freedom, of Durham, N.C./WRL and a co-organizer of the Women's Peace March from Durham to Seneca Falls last year, spoke of the need for stronger future actions at the Pantex plant, including an extended peace camp and civil disobedience. Her comments were well-received and should lead to serious discussion of the role of civil disobedience in future Pantex actions when we meet in September to evaluate the Pilgrimage and begin working towards a regional action for '85. As Pilgrimage co-coordinator Don Gardner told me recently, "We've now got Pantex primed. A blockade at both gates might be a logical next step."

My feeling is that the Pilgrimage to Pantex has been a tremendous success in several ways. Each local pilgrimage group developed into a good working team with a positive experience together to build on for future actions. In the preliminaries in the home communities, at every stop on the routes, and finally at the plant itself, attention was focused on the nuclear arms race and the role Pantex plays in it. The media was captivated and spread the message of the Pilgrimage marvelously. A network of peace people has been established across the region. And the Amarillo area, the workers and the security personnel have been "primed" with a this year's good relations for stronger actions in the future.

I think the creative and positive approach of the Pantex Pilgrimage as a nonviolent action has been a good first step in this conservative region of ours. We now look forward to building on this foundation.

Barbara Deming 1917–1984

Barbara Deming at press conference with A.J. Muste after return from Saigon in 1966.

Barbara Deming is an example of a great reconciler with a wonderful stubborn streak. I have said "is"—because the fact of Barbara's body's death from this world on August 1, is only a companion fact to her continuing life in all of us. For me, and many others it's real, a settling in the bones and a continuing conversation—about how to maintain fidelity to your deepest thoughts and move with respect and a voracious ear towards the deepest thinking and longing of others.

She demanded, allowed and loved the others' truth, but it had to be truth. She made these demands in long letters (many of them published) (an amazing form). She tried wholeheartedly to understand, explain—she waited for answers. That's one thing I continually learn from my friend Barbara—fidelity to one's own pain and absolute patient attention to and identification with the oppression and personal sorrow of others.

The world's peace, the peace among the nations, the respectful peace and joy between women and men and women and women—she sought that on the highest level and determinedly would accept nothing less.

Oh how she pressed those of us who would settle for less!

She taught until the end, felt that responsibility that the beloved teacher feels, never to cease that exemplary living until dying comes. And that was the last thing Barbara taught me and the community of women who lived alongside her terrible physical pain those last weeks, something about dying, how to do it with some serenity, lovingly, though you know you are leaving this dear world forever. "I'm dying, but I'm very well, she said to me on the phone. "Everyone's here and I'm well."

Now someone must tell the story of this great woman's life in the important movements of our time. As worker and thinker in the Civil Rights Movement, the Peace movement and in the movement of her sisters called broadly the Womens Movement, where specifically her sister lesbians and heterosexual women felt her stubborn intelligence and power and understood how to love one another.

—Grace Paley

Help the WRL Help Create a Calendar

The WRL depends on the sales of its annual calendar. In order to create the 1986 calendar, the WRL is depending on you.

Like the 1983 edition, "There is No Way to Peace, Peace is the Way," the 1986 edition will consist of quotes about peace and social justice. You can help.

The editor, that's me, does a great deal of the work of selecting the quotations. But I need a lot of help in finding them. Librarians help. League members help. You can help.

Please send in your favorites. Any quotes that are relevant to what we do are welcome. As last time, they may also be things said or written by people very far on the wrong side of the fence. If they are interesting enough, they will be included.

The deadline is December 15. Got any good ones? **—Maris Cakars**

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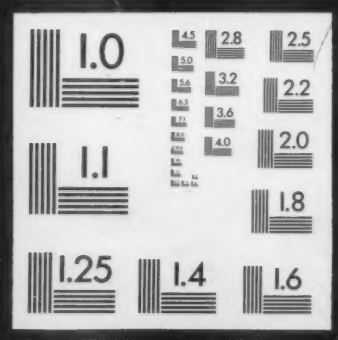
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